

Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 12733

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA EG

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL INQUIRY

REF: STATE 295398

1. WE SHARE DEPT'S VIEW THAT MR. PATTERSON'S PROPOSAL IS PREMATURE. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE A VERY POSITIVE STEP IF SUCH A CONCEPT WERE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE. SINCE WE WERE PUZZLED AT MINTOURISM NAGUIB'S ALLEGED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE, WE QUERIED NAGUIB ABOUT THIS MATTER. NAGUIB RECALLED NO SUCH CONVERSATION WITH MR. PATTERSON AND DENIED THAT HE HAD EVER BEEN RECEPTIVE TO SUCH AN IDEA IN PRINCIPLE. AS HE POINTEDLY NOTED, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IS NOT SUCH AT THE PRESENT TIME TO PERMIT GOE TO ACCEPT SUCH A CONCEPT. FYI AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE DID NOT RECALL MEETING MR. PATTERSON, BUT NOTED HE HAD MET MANY PEOPLE DURING THE MADRID TOURIST CONFERENCE END FYI.

2. WE BELIEVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE WILL BE SERVED BY MR. PATTERSON TRAVELING TO EGYPT IN JANUARY TO DISCUSS THE IDEA WITH THE EGYPTIANS. IF HE DOES, HE SHOULD EXPECT A TURNDOWN.
EILTS

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